DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 469 259 CE 083 883

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TITLE	Becoming Adult: How Teenagers Prepare for the World of Work.
INSTITUTION	Chicago Univ., IL.
SPONS AGENCY	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, New York, NY.
ISBN	ISBN-0-465-01540-9
PUB DATE	2000-00-00
NOTE	289p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Basic Books, a member of the Perseus Books Group, Customer Service Department, 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, CO 80301 ($18). Tel: 800-386-5656 (Toll Free); Fax: 720-406-7336; e-mail: westview.orders@perseusbooks.com; Web site: http://www.basicbooks.com/.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Reports - Research (143)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Adolescents; Adults; *Career Development; Career Education; Career Guidance; Education Work Relationship; Educational Experience; Educational Research; *Family Influence; High School Students; High Schools; *Individual Development; Longitudinal Studies; Minority Groups; *Occupational Aspiration; Play; *Student Attitudes; *Work Attitudes; Youth Employment

ABSTRACT

This book describes how American teenagers develop attitudes and acquire skills to achieve their career goals and expectations. It presents findings of a study that followed the progress of more than 1,000 students from 13 school districts from 1992-97. Focus is on the experiences of adolescents as they were reported in the first few years of data collection. Part 1, Adolescent Views of Work, discusses how the nature of adult work has changed, how young people form ideas about adult work, and how teenagers envision adult work. Part 2, Learning to Work, describes how teenagers distinguish between work and play activities, which factors contribute to enjoyable work, how families shape teenagers' perceptions of work, and what activities students find most beneficial to their future. Part 3, Transitioning from High School, explores how high schools influence student career paths after graduation; why students take different paths; and finally, how schools and parents can help their adolescents develop creative problem-solving techniques and the ability to seek engaging, challenging activities that promote productive adult lives. Appendixes include site descriptions, instruments, variable list, notes for each of the 10 chapters, and an index. (Contains 155 references.) (YLB)

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